

APPENDIX C

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Aeronautics
Mail Stop 410
222 East Plate Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

Phone: 651/296-8202
Phone: 651/297-1600
Fax: 651/297-5643
Fax: 651/296-1828

July 23, 2003

651 296 2788

RECEIVED JUL 24 2003

Ms. Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist
Great River Energy
17845 East Hwy 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800

Subject: **Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed your proposal for the Plymouth-Maple Grove 115kV Transmission Line project. The nearest public use airport (Crystal Airport) is approximately 4 miles from the proposed line and our records do not indicate any private airstrips in the vicinity. We do not anticipate any effect on public airports or private airstrips in the project area; therefore the Office of Aeronautics has no objection to the project as proposed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Gene R. Scott'.

Gene R. Scott, P.E.
Regional Airport Engineer



RECEIVED SEP - 5 2003

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

September 4, 2003

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
P.O. Box 800
Elk River MN 55330-0800

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 2003-2913

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We wrote you previously regarding the above referenced project, addressing state level review requirements.

We have now been advised that the project will include a federal involvement, and so the Section 106 review requirements must be met. Accordingly, we have reviewed the project pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

Based on available information, we conclude that **no historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places will be affected** by this project.

Please contact Dennis Gimmestad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jordan Bennett

for Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

RECEIVED JUL 24 2003

July 22, 2003

Ms. Carole Schmidt
Great River Energy
PO Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County
SHPO Number: 2003-2913

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact Dennis Gimmestad at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4012

August 26, 2003

Ms. Carole L. Schmidt
Great River Energy
17845 East Highway 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330-0800

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed your letter and maps regarding the proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV transmission line. Based on the information provided and acknowledgement of the Natural Heritage Review comments sent under separate cover, we have no further comments on this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane K. Anderson".

Diane K. Anderson, Environmental Planner
Environmental Policy and Review Section
Office of Management and Budget Services
651-296-1548
diane.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us

C: Tom Balcom
Wayne Barstad

GRE Plymouth-MG dka.doc





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
190 FIFTH STREET EAST
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1638

September 4, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Construction-Operations
Regulatory (2003-08337-JJY)

Ms. Carole L. Schmidt
Great River Energy
17845 East Highway 10
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

We have reviewed the information you provided about your proposal to construct a new 115kV transmission line that would cross wetlands adjacent to tributaries to the Mississippi River, including various tributaries in the Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and Bassett Creek watersheds. The project alignment crosses Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 34, T. 119 N., R. 22 W., and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, and 27, T. 118 N., R. 22 W., Cities of Maple Grove and Plymouth, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

The project includes 4.25 miles of new 115kV line, 7.5 miles of reconstructed line, 2.25 miles of double circuiting existing line, and modifications to seven existing substations. No fill would be placed in waters or wetlands to accomplish this work.


The work proposed at the location stated is not within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. No work will be done in or above a navigable water of the United States, and no dredged or fill material will be discharged in any water of the United States, including wetlands. Therefore, a Department of the Army permit is not required to do this work.

This letter is valid only for the project referenced above. If any change in design, location, or purpose is contemplated, contact this office to avoid doing work that may be in violation of Federal law. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONFIRMATION LETTER DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OR COUNTY.

The decision regarding this action is based on information found in the administrative record which documents the District's decision-making process, the basis for the decision, and the final decision.

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Joseph Yanta in our St. Paul office at (651) 290 5362. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch

JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District

APPLICANT: Great River Energy

PROJECT LOCATION/WATERWAY: Mississippi River

FILE NUMBER: 200308337

PROJECT REVIEW COMPLETED: ☒ Office ☐ Field

Jurisdictional Determination (JD): (For sites evaluated under 33 CFR §320-330)

- ☐ Preliminary JD - Based on available information, ☐ there appear to be or ☐ there appear to be no waters of the United States on the project site. A preliminary JD is not appealable.
- ☒ Approved JD - ☒ There are or ☐ there are no waters of the United States on the project site, as identified in the basis of jurisdictional determination indicated below. An approved JD is an appealable action (33 CFR §331). The Request for Appeal form may be downloaded from the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division web site at: http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/nwsinfo/mvd_appeals/pdf/naoraf.pdf or by calling 651-290 5375.

Basis of Jurisdictional Determination: (Reference 33 CFR §328.3(a) and 329)

- ☐ (1) The waters are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
- ☐ (i) Section 10 waters
- ☐ (ii) Other waters that are navigable (document navigability and use in Rationale, below)
- ☐ (2) The waters or wetlands are interstate waters including interstate wetlands¹
- ☐ (3) The waters or wetlands are other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could effect interstate commerce including any such waters:
- ☐ (i) which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational purposes.
- ☐ (ii) from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
- ☐ (iii) which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
- ☐ (4) The waters or wetlands are impoundments of jurisdictional waters.
- ☒ (5) The waters are a tributary to a water identified in (1) - (4) above
- ☐ (6) The wetlands¹ are adjacent² to interstate or other waters of the U.S, except for those wetlands adjacent to other wetlands.

Rationale for Basis (applies to any boxes checked above). *If the jurisdictional water is not itself a Section 10 regulated water or water that is navigable, describe the surface connection to the downstream Section 10 water or water that is navigable. If (1) or (3) is used as the Basis of Jurisdiction, document navigability and/or interstate commerce connection.* Affected wetlands are adjacent to various tributaries in the Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and Bassett Creek watersheds. These three creeks are all tributary to the Mississippi River, a navigable water of the United States.

Lateral Extent of Jurisdiction (Reference 33 CFR §328 and 329):

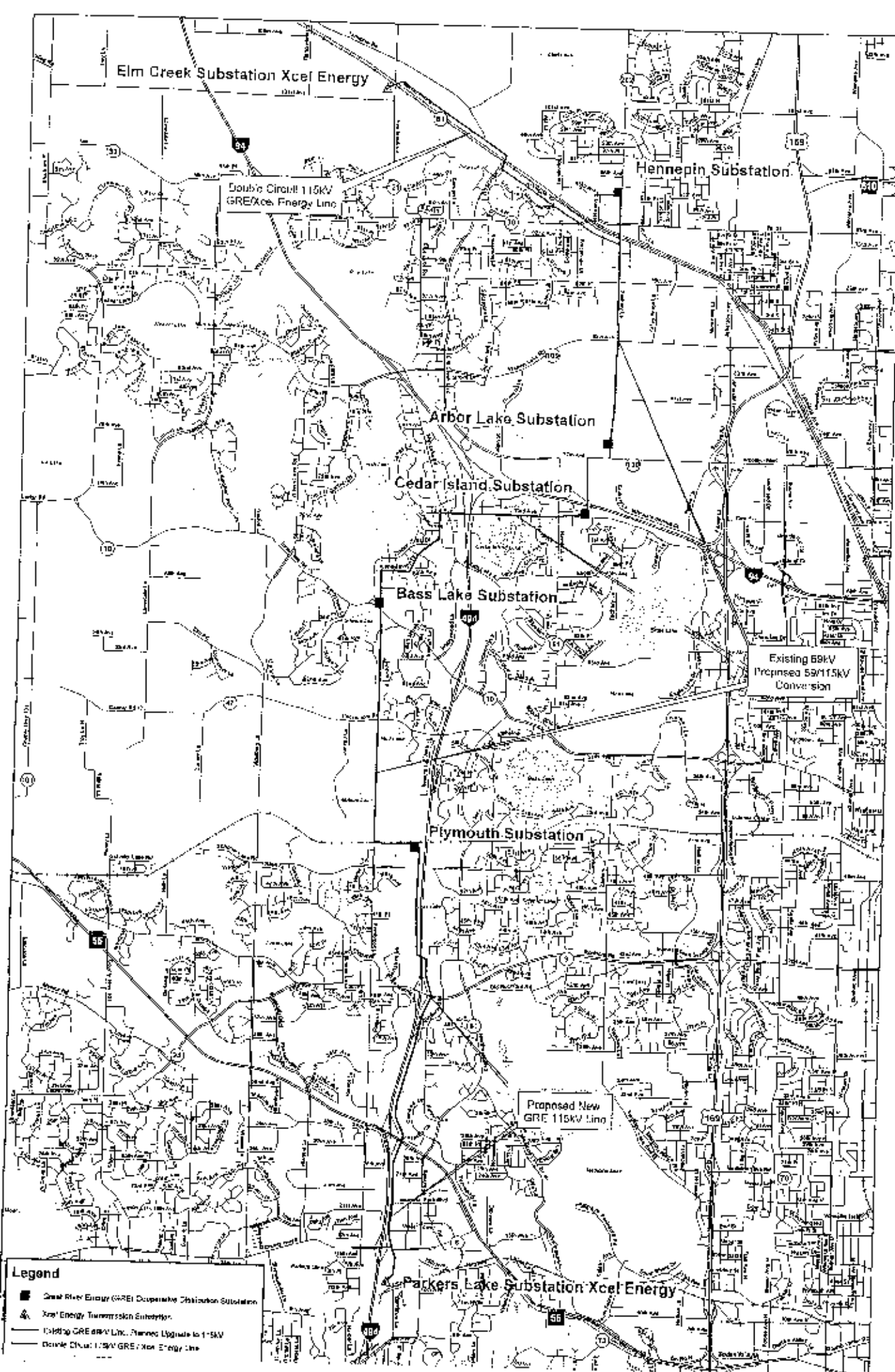
- ☐ Ordinary High Water Mark indicated by:
- ☐ clear, natural line on the bank ☐ litter and debris ☐ shelving ☐ changes in soil
- ☐ destruction of terrestrial vegetation ☐ other: _____
- ☐ Wetland, as shown on the attached wetland delineation map and/or in a jurisdictional report prepared by: _____ (Attach data sheets representing each plant community type, etc.)
- ☒ Additional supporting information. The attached project location map indicates that the line crosses various wetland and tributaries in the identified watersheds. However, no regulated work is proposed in any of these jurisdictional waters.

Preparer: _____

Date: Sept 4, 2003

¹Wetlands are identified and delineated using the methods and criteria established in the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual (87 Manual) (i.e., occurrence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and wetland hydrology).

²The term "adjacent" means bordering, contiguous, or neighboring. Wetlands separated from other waters of the U.S. by man-made dikes or barriers, natural river berms, beach dunes, and the like are also adjacent.



Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER

From: Ed Musielewicz [ejm@mn.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2003 3:09 PM
To: Schmidt, Carole GRE/ER
Cc: ejm
Subject: RE: Plymouth-Maple Grove Project



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rove Trans...

Carole:

The attached jpg map shows prime farmland and areas currently in cropland (according to Farm Service Agency records) for sections within the Plymouth-Maple Grove Project. It does not appear that prime farmland that is currently cropped will be directly affected by the project. Prime farmland that is not currently cropped may be effected by the project, but it appears that this will only occur in developed areas that are not feasible to farm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Edward J. Musielewicz Phone: (763)241-1170
District Conservationist Fax: (763)241-1161
Natural Resources Conservation Service
14855 Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330



MAPLE GROVE

PLYMOUTH

GRE PLYMOUTH-MAPLE GROVE
TRANSMISSION LINE

- ▲ CITY BOUNDARIES
- CURRENT CROPLAND AREAS (FS# RECORDS)
- PRIME FARMLAND - 3,887.1 ac
- ▬ PROJECT LOCATION SECTIONS



1 INCH = 0.75 MILES



17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2566 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Mr. Gene Scott
Office of Aeronautics
Minnesota Department of Transportation
222 E. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Scott:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T118N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on airports or airstrips in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures



17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 200 • Elk River, Minnesota 55230-0800 • 763-441-3121 • Fax 763-241-2366 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Ms. Britta L. Bloomberg
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T118N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

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GREAT RIVER
ENERGY®

7845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763 241-0121 • Fax 763 241-2368 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Mr. Tom Balcom, Supervisor
Natural Resources Planning and Review Services
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Balcom:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T118N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other important state natural resources that occur in the project area.

There are several Protected Waters in the vicinity of the proposed project. GRE will apply to the DNR Realty Bureau for a license to cross those waters. The Minnesota Natural Heritage database was reviewed and the only area the project would impact is a Significant Native Plant Community Area in Section 15, T118N, R22W (Maple-Basswood remnant as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey). GRE will propose mitigation for any loss of woodland in this area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If we do not hear from the DNR by that date, GRE will assume the DNR has no comments.

If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures



17645 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-441-0121 • Fax 763-241-2366 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Mr. Joe Yanta
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Attn: CO-R
190 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Déar Mr. Yanta:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T118N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on floodplains, wetlands, and other important natural resources that occur in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

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GREAT RIVER
ENERGY

17845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • (651) 441-3121 • Fax: (763) 741-2366 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Mr. Nick Rouse, Habitat Conservation Biologist
United States Department of the Interior
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425-1665

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Rouse:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T116N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the project area. The proposed project does not represent a "major construction activity" as defined in 50 CFR 402.02.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures



14845 East Highway 10 • P.O. Box 800 • Elk River, Minnesota 55330-0800 • 763-241-2366 • Fax 763-241-2366 • www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

24 June 2003

Mr. Edward J. Musielewicz, District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Elk River Field Office
14855 Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330-7606

RE: Proposed Plymouth-Maple Grove 115 kV Transmission Line
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Musielewicz:

Great River Energy (GRE) is in the process of preparing a route permit application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 115 kV transmission line project in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project consists of approximately 4.25 miles of new 115 kV line, rebuilding approximately 7.5 miles of existing 69 kV line to 115 kV, double circuiting approximately 2.25 miles of Xcel Energy 115 kV transmission line, and modifications to seven existing substations. The project is needed to meet growing electrical needs in the area.

The proposed project is located in Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, T119N, R22W, and Sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, 27, T118N, R22W in Maple Grove and Plymouth, Minnesota. A project fact sheet and a site map are enclosed for your information.

GRE is requesting information on the possible effects of the proposed project on important or prime farmlands in the project area.

We would appreciate receiving any written comments from your office by Friday, July 25, 2003. If you have any questions about this proposed project, please contact me at (763) 241-2272. If you wish to respond by e-mail, my address is cschmidt@greenergy.com. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Carole L. Schmidt
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

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